

**BETWEEN SELFISH AND ALTRUISTIC DESIRES IN JODI PICOULT'S
NOVEL *MY SISTER'S KEEPER* (2004): A PSYCHOANALYTIC
CRITICISM**

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Pembimbing I

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**BETWEEN SELFISH AND ALTRUISTIC DESIRES
IN JODI PICOULT'S NOVEL MY SISTER'S KEEPER (2004):
A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM**

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ABSTRACT

This research paper is aimed to show visible image of Jodi Picoult's novel which is analyzed by using psychoanalytic criticism. The objectives of the research are to analyze the novel based on the structural elements and to analyze the novel based on psychoanalytic criticism proposed by Sigmund Freud. This research paper belongs to qualitative research. Data of the research are divided into two, primary data and secondary data. The primary data of the research is My Sister's Keeper novel and secondary data of the research are biography of the author, websites, and other sources about psychoanalytic criticism that support the analysis. The method to analyze of this data is descriptive analysis. The researcher comes to the conclusion as follows. Based on the psychoanalytic criticism analysis, Jodi Picoult illustrated psychological phenomena in which an individual have experiences internal and external conflict between selfish and altruistic desires. The outcome of the study shows that Jodi Picoult illustrated the psychological phenomenon an individual experiences with her inner conflict between her different desires. She covers her conflict using selfish and altruistic desires to solve the problem.

Keyword: selfish, altruistic, desires, psychoanalytic criticism.

I. Introduction

My Sister's Keeper is a novel by Jodi Picoult and was published by Simon & Schuster .Inc in 2004. The book was first published in Australia. It is the eleventh novel wrote by Jodi Picoult. The novel consists of 432 pages. In 2009 *My Sister's Keeper* was adapted in a film with the same title *My Sister's Keeper* presented by New Line Cinema. *My Sister's Keeper* was a big-screen released from New Line Cinema, with Nick Cassavetes directing and Cameron Diaz starring, which is now available in DVD.

In *My Sister's Keeper* novel there are main characters. They are Anna and her mother Sara, the protagonist is Anna. Picoult plays nicely in moving the characters. She explores the dimension of emotional and moral dilemma in which Anna has been around through different perspective from herself and her family. Jodi Picoult employs a unique style in ordering each chapter. The story which took place in modern long island, deals with the illness of 16 year old Kate who has suffered from leukemia most of her life. Trying to save their daughter Kate's parent Sara and Brian decide to have another baby name Anna save her sister. In this story Picoult uses flashback plot technique from the beginning to the end of the story.

There are three reasons why the writer is interested in studying this novel. The writer is interested in studying this novel firstly because it is the realistic novel. Based on the true story of family life. In America a couple successfully to conceive a sibling that was a bone marrow match for his older sister. A girl who was suffered a rare leukemia. His cord blood cells were given to the sister who is still in remission. This story also drew from the author experience as a parent with a child who faced a series of surgeries. When her middle son Jake was 5 he was diagnosed with bilateral tumors in his ears.

The second reason is because this novel tells the story about the struggle of a 13 year old girl to get the medical emancipation from her

parents. Anna Fitzgerald who is willing sacrifice her life to save her sister Kate from her suffered a rare leukemia.

The third reason is because this book contains many good values for the readers. Behind its amusing story the readers can get some moral messages that are implied in the story. In this story tell about how to be a good sibling and good parents.

The writer uses the psychoanalytic criticism as an approach to analyze this novel. By so doing, the writer gives the title: **“BETWEEN SELFISH AND ALTRUISTIC DESIRES IN JODI PICOULT’S NOVEL *MY SISTER’S KEEPER* (2004): A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM”**.

For the study the writer found so many researchers analyzing *My Sister’s Keeper*. First is done by Citra Pantow (2013) Faculty of Art Sam Ratulangi University who writes a paper entitled “Anna Fitzgerald’s Conflicts In the Novel *My Sister’s Keeper* By Jodi Picoult”. She is focusing to identify Anna Fitzgerald’s inner and physical conflict in the story and the cause and effects to Anna Fitzgerald. In the study, she uses the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches to analyze Anna Fitzgerald’s Conflicts in The Novel *My Sister’s Keeper* By Jodi Picoult.

Second researcher is Irma Astuti (2009) Faculty of English Education Ahmad Dahlan University of Yogyakarta who writes a paper entitled “An Analysis of Sara’s Personality in Jodi Picoult’s *My Sister’s Keeper*”. She is focusing to describe the characterization of Sara, to describe personality of Sara and to describe the factors that influence the personality of Sara. In the study, she uses a psychological approach to analyze An Analysis of Sara’s Personality In Jodi Picoult’s *My Sister’s Keeper*.

Third is a summarize and review by Ikasari Nurcahyani and Dwi Wulandari, S.S,M.A. (2012) English Department Faculty of Humanity Diponegoro University Semarang who write “A Book Review Of *My Sister’s Keeper* Written By Jodi Pacolet”. They are focusing to summarize

and to review *My Sister's Keeper* novel which is written by Jodi Picoult. The review includes theme, characters, plot, style and technique of using irony to make an unpredictable story.

Fourth is a thesis by Novi Ridho'ah (2008) Faculty of English Education Ahmad Dahlan University of Yogyakarta who writes a paper entitled "The Sue of Medical Emancipation of The Main Character in Jodi Picoult Novel's *My Sister's Keeper*". She is focusing to describe the characterization of the main character observed psychologically. In the study, she uses a psychological approach.

The last is a research paper done by Nurfatimah Zainal (2013) English Department Faculty of Adab and Cultural Sciences State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta who write a paper entitled "Not All Children Are Created Equal: Discrimination Against Children As Seen In *My Sister's Keeper*". She is focusing to explain how the discrimination against children in society as seen in *My Sister's Keeper*. In the study, she uses a discrimination against children to analyze Not All Children Are Created Equal: Discrimination Against Children as Seen In *My Sister's Keeper*.

From the analysis above the writer tries to make a different analysis. The writer uses a psychoanalytic criticism to analyze the data and using *My Sister's Keeper* novel as an object. The writer analyzes Between Selfish and Altruistic Desires in Jodi Picoult's Novel *My Sister's Keeper* (2004): Psychoanalytic Criticism.

Underlying theory, according to Wellek and Warren (1962: 54) literature is "social institution using as its medium language, a social creation". It means that literature is constructed from the interaction which happened in human being life. According to Freud (Zanden, 1988: 34), "the unconscious impulse finds expression in religion, art, literature and myth". Freud claims that's "psychoanalytic aims at and achieve nothing

more than discovery of the unconscious in mental life” (Pervin, 1984: 71). Feist (1985: 24) explains that there are three components of personality, the *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. The it almost always translated into English as *id*, that I was named as *ego* and the above-I it means as *superego*. Freud in Feist (1985: 24) constructed a model of personality with three interlocking parts: the *Id*, the *Ego* and the *Superego*.

A. Research Method

In analyzing this novel *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult (2004), the researches uses qualitative research for her research on *My Sister's Keeper* (2004) to analyze data, interpret data and collect data, the types of data of this study are the text in *My Sister's Keeper* (2004) novel by Jodi Picoult. The data sources are library and literary data. Its purpose is to analyze using psychoanalytic criticism. The object of the research is Between Selfish and Altruistic Desires in Jodi Picoult's Novel *My Sister's Keeper* (2004): Psychoanalytic Criticism. Types of the Data and the Data Source Object of the research is: The primary data sources are taken from Jodi Picoult's Novel *My Sister's Keeper*. The secondary data sources are taken from literary books or any information related to selfish and altruistic desires that support the psychoanalytic criticism. Technique of the Data Collection The writer used take notes as the method of collecting data in this research. The steps are as follows: Reading comprehension the novel repeatedly, reading translation novel to get more understanding. Accessing to the internet to get several information and articles related to the object of the study. The steps taken by the writer in analyzing the data are follows: the first is analyzing the data based on its structural elements. The second step is analyzing the data based on psychoanalytic criticism.

II. Research Finding

A. Conflicting Desires

Theory of psychoanalysis views that mental process of an individual has three systems there are *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. Freud claims that's "psychoanalytic aims at and achieve nothing more than discovery of the unconscious in mental life" (Pervin, 1984: 71).

1. Selfish Desires

According to Merriam Webster online selfish is having or showing concern only for your self and not for the needs or feelings of other people. The *Id* represents the biological substance of humans, the source of all drive energy, Freud theory (in Pervin, 1984:77). *Id* is a selfish, primitive childish, pleasure-oriented part of the personality with no ability to delay gratification. According to Feist (1985: 25), the *id* serves the pleasure principle, since its sole function is to seek satisfaction of pleasurable drives. There are several reason why Anna sued her parents for her medical body.

a. Refusing Kidney Transplantation

The main problem of Anna's selfish is she has a chance to life like others. Beside it she didn't want to do the transplantation of her kidney neither does Kate. On the other hand she knew the consequence would be.

b. The Need to be a Goaltender

Anna answer all of Campbell question along they walk in the zoo. Anna explained to Campbell what they want for pleasure if she won this case.

c. Persistence of Going to Hockey Camp

Anna forced her mother to give her permission to go to the Hockey Camp. When her mother didn't give

permission she contrasted with Kate for several days after she hospitalized her mother give permission to join camp.

- d. Wishing to be a Ballerina, a Poet, and Micro- Surgeon
Anna asked what she wanted for pleasure after she won the case and she got the medical emancipation for her body from court.

2. Altruistic Desires

According to Merriam Webster online altruistic is feelings and behavior that show a desire to help other people and a lack of selfishness. www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary. The *superego* grows out of the *ego* and, like the *ego*; it has no energy of its own. However, the *superego* differs from the *ego* in one important aspect; it has no contact with the outside world and is therefore unrealistic in its demands for perfection (Feist, 1985: 26).

- a. Giving the Stem Cells

Anna explained Campbell what her parents do for her body. From the beginning Anna tell the story of her life.

- b. Imposition of Kidney Transplantation

In great passion Anna said to Campbell about what her mother want her to do. In this section we can see that Anna forced by her mother to donate her kidney, but she didn't think about Anna's life later.

- c. Giving Cord Blood

Anna felt her parents discriminate her. For after she born she must done the medical instruction to save her sister's. After she born for a minute she begin to gives her parts of body till now.

- d. Giving Lymphocytes

When Anna was in kindergarten the doctors want to take her lymphocytes. Anna was afraid to do this so her parents to grab her and she was cried. In this time Anna forced by her parents.

e. Giving Bone Marrow

Sara ongoing to give Anna growth factor to hyper-pack Anna's marrow before harvest them.

f. Cancel to Go to Minnesota

In great passion Anna didn't want to hear what her mother said about her invitation to join Hockey Camp. Meanwhile Kate dying, Anna entrance ICU tried to see Kate condition. She said to Kate that she didn't want to go the Hockey Camp.

3. Action

a. Selling the Fourteen- Karat Gold

It's happened when Anna 13 year old after she realize what her parents doing with her body. She thought to pay the lawyer to sue her parents.

b. Hiring a Lawyer

After she sold her gold, she went to the lawyer Campbell Alexander office accompanied by Jesse to explain what happen with her body.

c. Run Away

Sara accept Anna's petition, she was too angry with Anna's action. Anna called Jesse to pick her up in the hospital to run away with, because her mother very angry.

d. Refusing Sara's Desires

In the court Sara tried discussion with Anna and wanted Anna to cancel her pursuit, but Anna shake her head hard because she didn't want to cancel this case.

e. Playing Hockey

Anna invited as a goal keeper and she was playing nicely. She was one the girl and youngest player in the ice.

f. Anna becomes Angry

Anna was very happy and she wanted to join it, but her mother did not give her permission. Anna was so angry and she did not care what her mother said. She run with her hockey stick and run with violent.

g. Revealing the Truth

In the last trial Anna born witness in the court, she asked to the entire court room who was convinced her. She was asked that Kate didn't want to transplant against, so she told Anna to stop being a donor. It was make all of the entire court room surprised.

III. Discussion

In the *My Sister's Keeper* novel Jodi Picoult shows the great story of family life. A good relation as a sibling and how becomes a good parents. The researcher uses that three elements of personality to build the major character's mental condition including *id*, *ego*, and *superego* prove that Anna has internal conflict with her parents. The main problem all of Anna's desires is she want to get medical emancipation for her body, she want to life normally like the other child as old as she, she want to playing hockey to show her hobby, she also want to get affection from her parents.

The *id* are reflected with Anna's selfish desires, the first reason is Anna want to get medical emancipation for her body. When she was 13

year old she sued her parent by hired a famous lawyer named Campbell Alexander. She sold her fourteen-karat gold to the pawnshop accompanied by Jesse. The other *id* cases Anna sued her parent because she wanted to be a hockey player. She wanted to be a ballerina, a poet and micro-surgeon.

The truth is Anna want to save her sister, but her sisters refuse her. Kate did not want to follow the medical procedure because she was sick and tired. It shows the *ego* of Anna, she wanted to save her sister but in the other hand she did not want to do the transplantation. The personal principle is *superego* is person must respect to the other although they are different creatures. Here, *superego* related to Anna's altruistic desires. Anna always forced by her parents to save her sisters. Sara is Anna's mother who always forced Anna to do the medical procedure.

According to Freud in Feist (1985: 36) sublimation is, "defined as a repression of the genital aim of Eros by substituting a cultural or social aim. The sublimated aim can be seen most obviously in creative cultural accomplishments such as art, music, and literature, but more subtly in all human relationships and all social pursuits.

In the result of the analyze Anna Fitzgerald personality in *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult based on Freud's psychoanalytic theory show that the *superego* of Anna Fitzgerald is bigger than other and dominating in psychological activity of Anna's.

IV. Conclusion

Based on the analysis in the researcher would like to draw some conclusions as follows: First, based on structural analysis it shows that *My Sister's Keeper* Jodi Picoult delivers moral message. Second conclusion it shows that in *My Sister's Keeper* Jodi Picoult illustrates psychological phenomena in which an individual has experienced internal and external conflict between selfish and altruistic desires.

In *My Sister's Keeper* novel the writer analyze by using psychoanalytic criticism. Based on psychoanalytic criticism analysis *My Sister's Keeper* novel by Jodi Picoult illustrated psychological phenomena in which an individual have experiences internal and external conflict between selfish and altruistic desires. Literature became important of individual psychology strata in the society.

My Sister's Keeper is recommended to read because this novel contents of moral value. The language used in *My Sister's Keeper* is not difficult so the readers can understand easily. The story has a great motivation to be a good sibling and parents. For teacher, it can be used as reading material to improve students' vocabulary skill. There will be many vocabularies which can learners find in the novel. For students, this novel can be used to improve their understating of structural element of novel. Moreover, this novel has many moral messages which can take, so it can be used as a means of forming virtuous character and good attitude for learners, for example: ambitious, loving and cares and willingness of helping each other.

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